

TOWN OF LODI
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 19, 2016

Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Town Chairman Tom Marx.

21 residents present: Martha Dodge Alberti, Robert Satterfield, Kathy Marx, Paulette Smith, Ron Smith, Cliff Roberts, Jon Plumer, Joe Fobes, Vickie Nichols, Jim Seaton, Jim Bechen, Robert Benson, Mark Mathwig, Allison Seaton, Neil Heskin, Tom Marx, James Brooks, Dan Parks, Rick Weigle, Tim Escher, Shirley Schommer.

2 non-residents present: Roberta Arnold, April Goeske (Clerk-Treasurer)

Tom Marx – notice our new 65” UHD 4K tv. We will be using this for agendas, pictures, information so the public can see the items that the Town Board is discussing at meetings.

SEE Town Chairman Marx PowerPoint Presentation - ATTACHMENT A on Pages 3-5 at end of these minutes:

Tom Marx – I was hoping for a much larger turnout tonight. In anticipation of that we’ve created an overflow parking area off of the main parking lot that can be used, weather permitting, for larger events and elections here at the Town Hall.

Jim Seaton – who controls the placement of piers? Goeske – WI Dept. of Natural Resources. April Goeske – piers are under the jurisdiction of the WI Dept. of Natural Resources.

Robert Benson – I want to thank all the volunteers that planted the beautiful Daffodils in front of the Town Hall. Allison Seaton – the Daffodils are in honor of Doc Bowman who had Daffodils planted in their front yard in the Town of Lodi (STH 60), and when he and his wife passed away their children decided this is how they would carry on their memory.

Dan Parks – in the past we’ve talked with Bob Collins for 3 years about the fact when you come onto Bay Drive the people who use the boat launch on Bay Drive will park so that it’s hard for people travelling in that area to get around that T intersection, and emergency vehicles would be unable to get through. We’ve asked for markers so that people don’t park so it causes this problem, but to-date nothing has been done. **Ron Smith** – maybe we should ask the LAFD and/or EMS about the issue. **James Bechen** – what Dan Parks is referring to are called “bowers”, the yellow markers to designated parking or no parking and keeping people from doing so.

Dan Parks – I’ve had several requests from part-time Bay Drive residents for more streetlights on that road for safety. **Tom Marx** – I will have to check into that.

Dan Parks – regarding the public access on Bay Drive that’s never been improved as a park or opened up as a public access. It wouldn’t be a good place to make it a boat launch, would cause more parking issues. But we’d like to talk to the Park Commission and see about cleaning it up (local residents would volunteer) to maintain as a green space. Not a good idea to sell it because once it’s gone it’s gone and you can’t get it back. **Tom Marx** – the idea of selling that was presented to the Park Commission and they decided not to consider selling the property. So that idea is a dead subject. Paulette Smith – I agree it should be improved and maintained as a green space. **Ron Smith** – that property hasn’t been used for its intended purpose since it was dedicated in the 1950’s shouldn’t deter it from now being used for such. The population of that area has increased greatly. And there’s no other view like it available to the public. **Vickie Nichols** – Joe (Fobes) and I often walk down Bay Drive, and that access on Bay Drive would be a beautiful area to enjoy the scenery if improved so that it is useable.

Bob Satterfield – I've been looking at town maps for quite a while and there are a lot of properties the town owns that are public accesses/parks that are not marked or improved. I think they should be marked and improved. **Tom Marx** – the one thing we have to consider is that anything the town approves then has to be maintained, and that has to be worked into the budget. **Tim Escher** – I was on the Park Commission for a long time and I think the best way to improve some of these parcels is not to go to the Town Board to do the work and maintain, it's to get residents involved in it.

Ron Smith – an idea would be to form neighborhood groups to help improve, maintain, etc.... these unimproved parks and accesses. **Paulette Smith** – give the Park Commission applause for keeping the Okee Conservation Park so nice. **Tom Marx** – give most of those thanks to Transfer Site/Parks employee Rick Waugh, who's been doing the burning each Spring.

Ron Smith – on Bay Drive, just off Summerville Park Road, there's a downed oak tree (due to oak wilt) and the tree right next to it is dead and is larger and leaning over Bay Drive, so if/when it falls it will block Bay Drive. **Bob Benson** – is it in the road right-of-way or on private property? **Ron Smith** – probably on private property. **Robert Benson** – then the town can't take it down. **Tom Marx** – we can check into it.

Ron Smith – WHO did the terrible job of snowplowing this past Winter?! **Tom Marx** – I talked to Columbia County Highway Dept. They said this was a bad winter due to the ice problems. They had a turnover of most of their plow drivers and so they're trying to get it organized. The Highway Commissioner actually followed some of the plows around to see what was being done right or wrong.

Allison Seaton – Tim Escher reminded me that this year is the 20th anniversary of the Okee Conservation Park. Back in 1995-1996 grant year we got a total of \$136,000 to purchase that park. **Jim Seaton** – the rest of the money was raised by residents of the town. **April Goeske** – there's still around \$6,000 left in the Okee Conservation Park Fund.

Robert Benson – having served with Tim Escher on the Park Commission I think we need to look at the history of that Commission, how active it was for many years, but then from around 2012 – 2015 membership dropped and the Commission became nearly inactive (holding no meetings in 2013 and 2014 at all). Also, if you're pleased with how the parks are being maintained, as well as the Transfer Site, you should thank Rick Waugh. **Joe Fobes** – I think we need more advanced notice of meetings like the Park Commission. **Tom Marx** – I also think the Park Commission meeting needs to be set for a specific day each month (such as 3rd Wednesday of each month) so that citizens know when to expect the meetings.

Tom Marx – the checklists for certified survey maps, rezones, variances need to be updated. **April Goeske** – I will be working with Columbia County Planning & Zoning to get these.

Joe Fobes – the Town of Dekorra has excellent information on their website as to the process for building permits, CSM's, variances, rezones, etc. **April Goeske** – I will look that up, I can get the information from their clerk.

***Jim Bechen/Robert Benson** motion to approve the April 2015 Annual Town Meeting minutes; MC unanimously.*

***Robert Benson/Jim Bechen** motion to adjourn at 6:55 p.m.; MC unanimously.*

April D. Goeske
Clerk-Treasurer



Introduction

**There are 3 categories of actions of authorized by
State Statutes, section 60.10, at an Annual Meeting**

- **Direct Powers:** Levy Taxes, Fix Compensation for town offices, establishing or abolishing the office of constable
 - **Granting Authority to the Town Board:** Examples include; increasing the size of the Board and purchasing land
(The town board may decide not to do what the town meeting has authorized or do it in a different manner than specified at the meeting)
 - **Authorize the board to appropriate money:** An example is appropriating money for the conservation of natural resources
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2015 Annual Meeting

Motions

- Transfer Site: Motion to Reinstate Don Knuteson, re-establish the Transfer Site Committee and bring back the donation table
Brought back the donation table and are managing the transfer site with a liaison from the Board – Bob Benson
- Tornado Sirens: Motion to have a tornado siren in Harmony Grove and Okee
Investigated cost of tornado sirens in Okee and Harmony Grove. Estimate was \$46,731 for 2 sirens. Board decided not to move forward at that cost.
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2015 Annual Meeting - continued

Discussion

- Ordinance Enforcement: Subjects raised included burning, people not picking up after their dogs, junk cars and boats, and the county not enforcing zoning ordinances.
The Town Board recodified our ordinances and then joined Eastern Columbia County Joint Municipal Court. Subsequently the Town entered into an agreement with the City of Lodi for supplementary law enforcement, random patrols, ordinance enforcement.
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Annual Meeting - General Information

- Town Chairman conducts the annual meeting and maintains order
 - A document describing the powers of an annual meeting is available at the sign in table
 - Most motions and subsequent votes are advisory only with limited exceptions
 - It is not necessary that motions be made. Subjects of interest or concern can be discussed
 - Any discussion should be limited to issues that concern the town and should not be directed at or about individuals
 - We should all remember that people can disagree on issues and both sides of an issue can have merit so please respect the opinions of others.
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Items of Interest

Before discussion begins there are a couple items of interest that I would like to communicate as long as a number of residents are here.

- The City of Lodi implemented a municipal wheel tax this year. In a number of cases, when Town residents have received their vehicle registration renewal the City tax of \$20.00 is included. If the \$20.00 has been added to your fee, cross out the word City and subtract the \$20.00 before you pay the registration fee.
 - A large number of roads will be worked on this year. Some will have crack filling done, some will be chip sealed and Rodney Drive will be completely reconstructed. There will be a list of the roads to be worked on placed on our website within 2 weeks.
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